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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'S

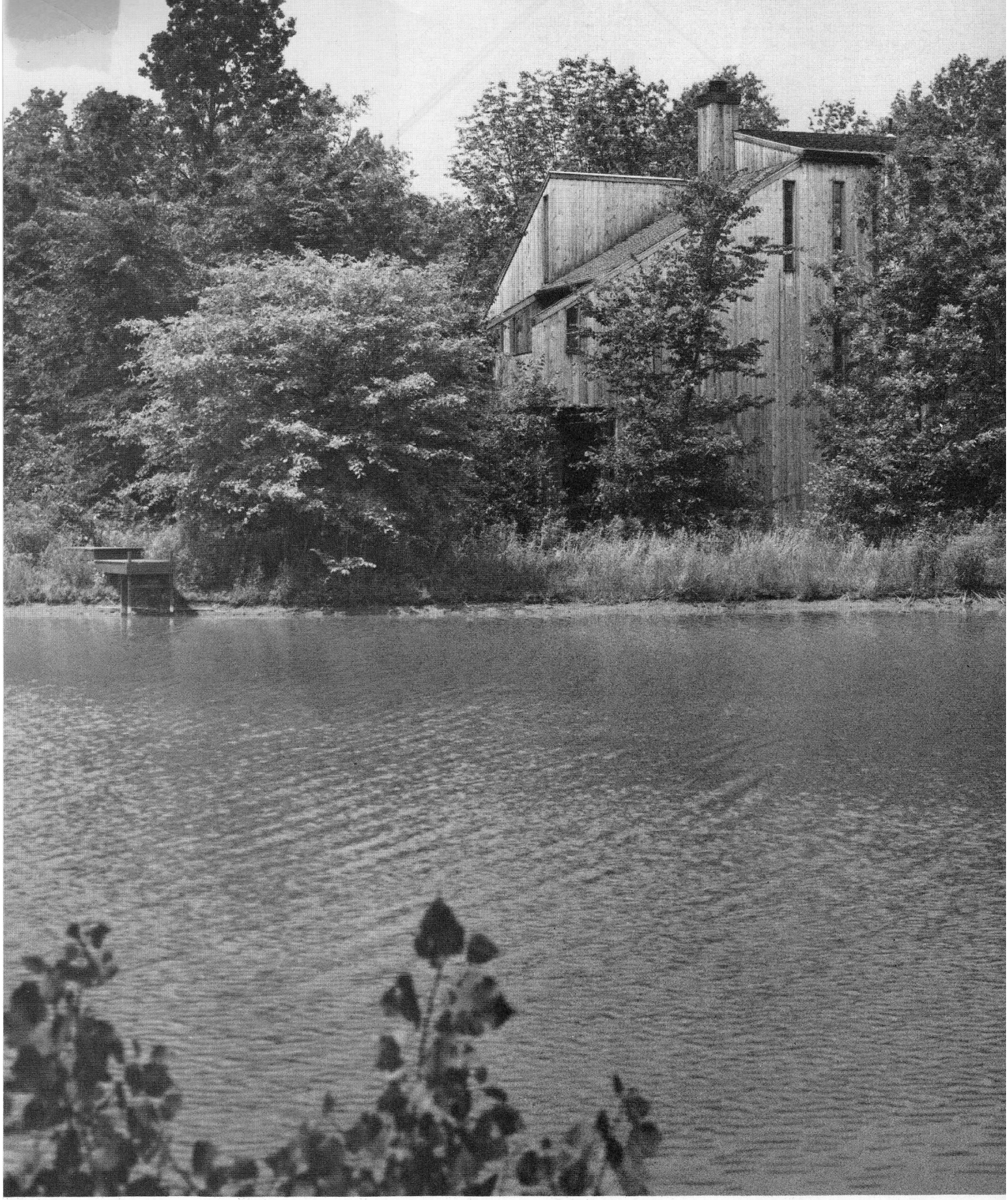
BUILDING MANUAL

FALL-WINTER 1978-79 $2

SPECIAL ISSUE

How we will live in the 1980's

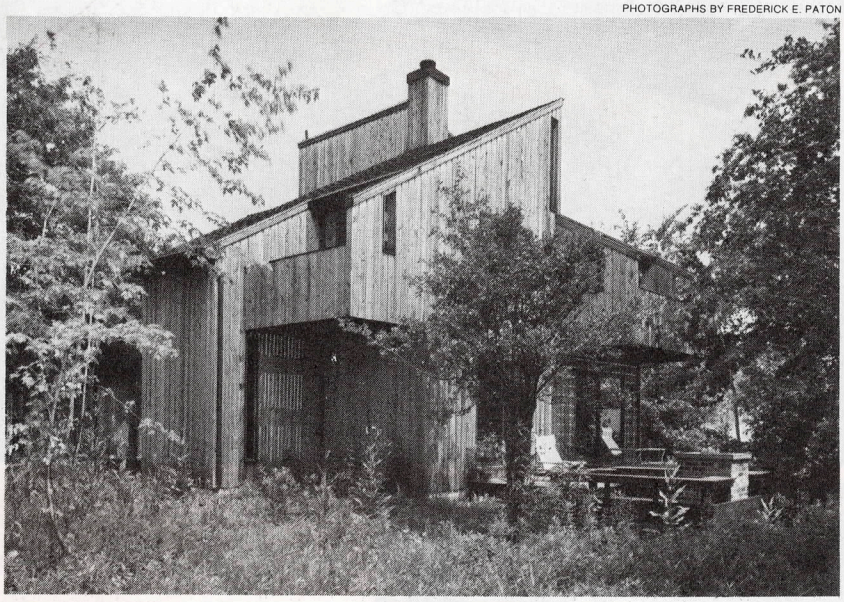
houses that look to the future
redesigning the living room
the self-sufficient kitchen • the sensuous bath
new ways to cut costs • a hard look at solar energy
and—ideas from outer space

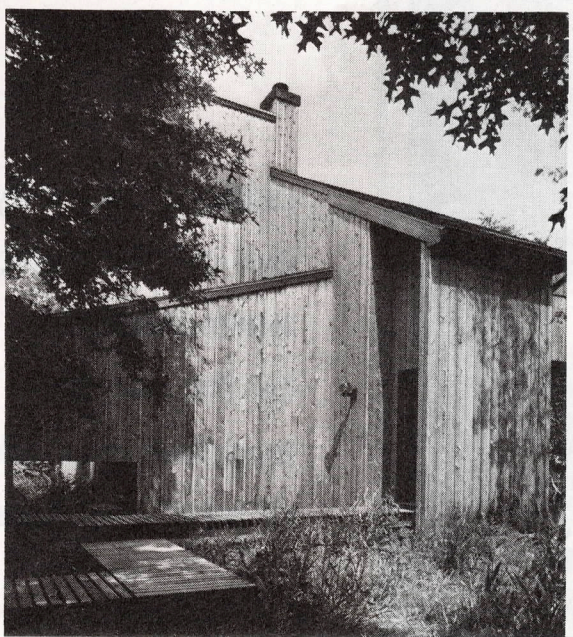


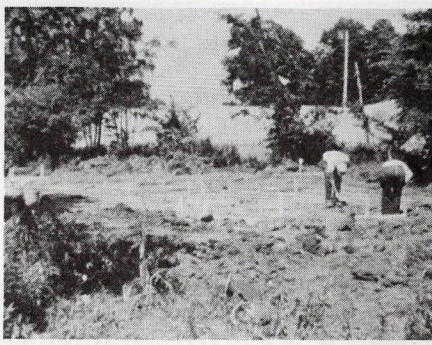
cutting high costs by building it yourself

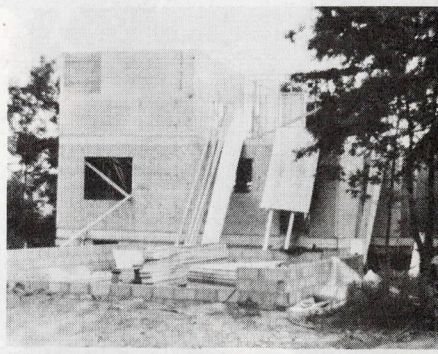
However we may live in the years ahead, one thing is certain—it will cost more. As prices for new housing spiral upwards, it will increasingly challenge the ingenuity to build on a limited budget. But it can be done, and results need not be plebeian, as this imaginatively shaped contemporary near Bowling Green, Ohio, proves. The basic shell was erected for $28 per sq. ft. because the owner, Dr. Gene Poor, did all of the work himself, except for foundation and plumbing. In addition to labor savings, he avoided the time-consuming and often costly delays of working with subcontractors. Poor, in fact, actually *designed* the house, although he is neither an architect nor a contractor; his plans were approved simply because they conformed to local building codes. (This is permitted in many states, although some require an architect's seal before blueprints are approved.) Sited on the edge of a pond, the vigorously articulated house with its intersecting angles and planes, left, is sheathed with rough-sawn cedar and trimmed with redwood to blend harmoniously with its setting; the landscape was left in its natural state, thereby realizing further economies. A series of decks and balconies adjoining the three levels, below, is a relatively economical way to extend living space to the outdoors. A redwood walkway leads up to the sheltered front entrance, bottom; fenestration is minimized on the driveway side of the house for privacy. The foundation is concrete block with crawl space. At right are some of the stages in construction.

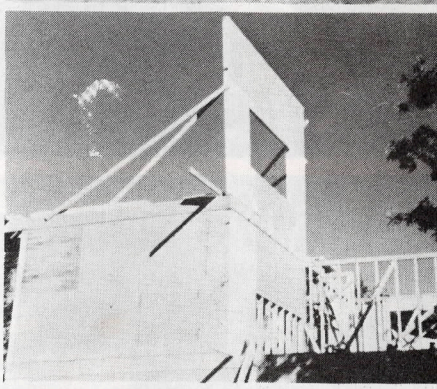
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FREDERICK E. PATON

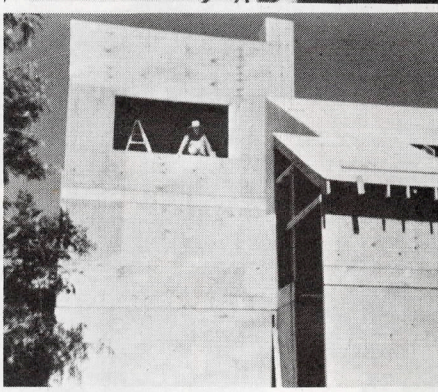




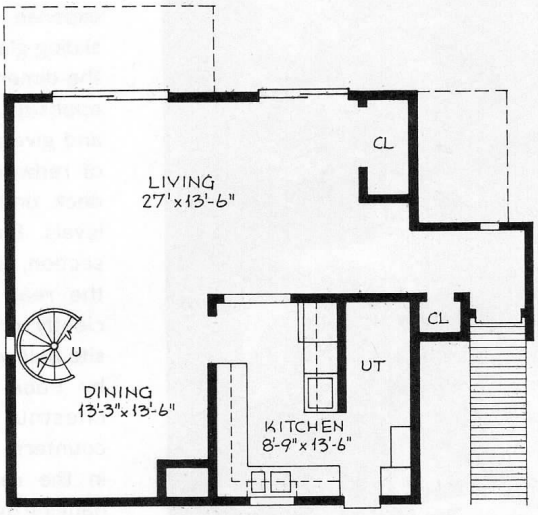




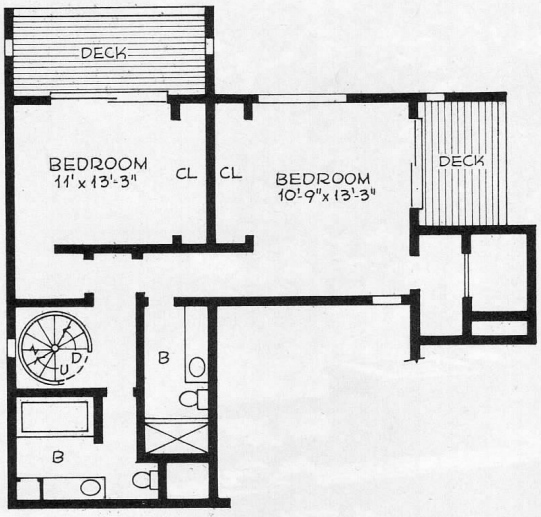




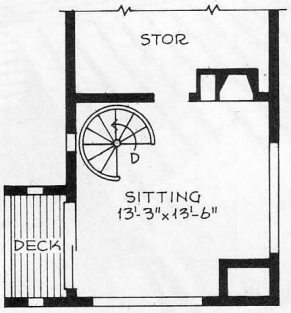
custom cabinetry and
eye-catching details
were created
by the owner—
inventive examples
of mind over money



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR

interiors that share space, and judicious use of decks and balconies, are deft ways to make small seem larger

DRAWINGS BY DYCK FLEDDERUS

Chosen in a stock size to avoid the expense of custom framework, sliding glass doors visually extend the dimensions of the living area, opposite above, to the outdoors and give access to a deck. Made of redwood, the interconnecting deck units, left, are on several levels. Built-in seating rings one section, with a brick barbecue at the rear. Cabinetry in the efficiently organized kitchen, opposite below, was designed and built by Poor; the units are wormy chestnut with black Formica counters. Leaded glass windows in the rear and in the section hanging over the pass-through are antiques. Adjoining the kitchen through the doorway at the right, the dining area, below left, has a butcher-block table and a wall system also designed by the owner. Flooring throughout the main level is quarry tile. A planter was built in under the stairs. The prefabricated metal staircase winds its way up three levels to a crow's nest, below right; the stained glass window, rescued from a church, is illuminated from behind to display its rich colors. Note the many whimsical touches that give the interiors individuality: the Victorian bric-a-brac hung over the sofa, old-fashioned radio console, penny-candy vending machine, sandbox set in the cocktail table.

Containing only 1,500 sq. ft. but appearing much larger, the house is deftly laid out to make the best possible use of space (see plans). The spiral stair takes up a minimum amount of floor area. On the main level, a projection room utilizes the expanse of a white wall opposite it. The second floor contains two bedrooms, each with a balcony, and one-and-a-half baths. The full bath, opposite left, has cedar cabinetry designed and built by the owner with an old piece of leaded glass used as a door to a towel closet. At the head of the bed in the master bedroom, opposite right, a stained-glass fanlight is set into a cedar wall and illuminated. The cubby hole at the rear has windows that look down into the entry foyer. At the top of the three-story tower, right, is a crow's nest conversation area. A balcony at the left surveys the countryside. Inside the cedar-lined area, above, is a prefabricated metal fireplace with a built-in wood box; there is also a dumbwaiter leading to the dining area on the main level.

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